Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 262027Z AUG 75 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7349

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3209

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJ: ENERGY: LIBBY DAM DEDICATION

- 1. CANADIAN PRESS OF AUG 25 FRONT-PAGED AND QUOTED LIBERALLY FROM ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES MINISTER MACDONALD'S SPEECH AT THE AUG 24 LIBBY DAM DEDICATION CEREMONIES.
- 2. TENOR OF ARTICLES PERHAPS BEST EXPRESSED BY FRANK
 RUTTER'S REPORT IN OTTAWA JOURANL WHICH CARRIED HEADLINE
 "CANADA DECLAIRES OIL INDEPENDENCE". RUTTER STATED IN
 OPENING PARAGRAPHS THAT "CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES SUNDAY
 FORMALLY ADOPTED A NEW MUTUAL ENERGY POLICY OF 'ENLIGHTENED
 SELF INTEREST." THE PHRASE WAS COINED HERE (LIBBY,
 MONTANA) BY ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD, AND PICKED UP BY
 PRESIDENT GERALD FORD AS THE TWO MET AT A CEREMONY... IN
 ESSENCE, IT WAS INTERPRETED BY THE TWO LEADERS TO MEAN
 COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON SPECIFIC ENERGY
 PROJECTS, BUT WITH THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH COUNTRY
 HAD TO ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE."

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3. COMMENT: MINISTER MACDONALD'S REMARKS AT THE DAM

DEDICATION CONSISTED OF LITTLE MORE THAN A CLEAR AND DIRECT STATEMENT OF WELL-KNOWN CANADIAN ENERGY POSITIONS ON THE FUTURE OF OIL AND GAS SUPPLIES TO THE U.S. AS SUCH, AND GIVEN FACT THAT TEXT WAS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED PRIOR TO DELIVERY AND PROMINENT EDITORIALS IN OTTAWA JOURNAL OF AUGUST 22 AND TORONTO STAR OF AUGUST 23 CALLED FOR A CONVINCING EXPLANATION OF CANADA'S ENERGY POLICIES AND ENERGY FUTURE TO THE U.S. AS WELL AS TO THE CANADIAN PUBLIC, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MACDONALD'S STATEMENT WAS AT LEAST EQUALLY AND PERHAPS MAINLY PITCHED TO THE CANADIAN DOMESTIC AUDIENCE.

4. ON RELATED MATTER, GEOFF STEVENS IN COLUMN IN GLOBE AND MAIL OF AUGUST 26 SPECULATES THAT MINISTER MACDONALD'S PRESENCE AT DAM DEDICATION AND SIDE-TRACKING (AT MACDONALD'S BEHEST) OF PM TRUDEAU'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, JACK AUSTIN, TO SENATE INSTEAD OF PRESIDENCY OF PETROCAN REFLECT DECISION BY MACDONALD TO REMAIN IN POLITICS AND IN HIS PRESENT CABINET POST. STEVENS STATES THAT "A 'COOPERATIVE, COORDINATED APPROACH' (AS THE MINISTER CALLED IT) TO ENERGY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES COULD BE MR. MACDONALD'S NEXT MAJOR UNDERTAKING. HE SOUNDS LIKE A MAN WHO PLANS TO STICK AROUND -- LONG ENOUGH, CONCEIVABLY, TO BE AVAILABLE SHOULD PIERRE TRUDEAU EVERY WEARY OF LEADERSHIP." PORTER

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